

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

WEEK ENDING: May 8, 2005
RELEASED: May 9, 2005

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WEATHER



Unsettled springtime weather continued this week, as a series of storm systems passed over California. The tail end of one system was exiting the State on Monday, and weak high pressure brought dry and mild conditions at the start of the week. Another Pacific storm moved across Northern California late Tuesday and spread rains across the north on Wednesday, then made its way to Southern California on Thursday. This system also brought snow to the higher elevations of the mountains. Showers persisted across much of the State on Friday. Sunny skies returned on Saturday, as a weak high pressure system briefly moved over California before yet another Pacific storm system arrived late Saturday. This system mainly affected the northern portion of the State as a strong low pressure system moved over the West Coast.

FIELD CROPS

Oat, **wheat** and winter forage harvest continued as field conditions permitted. Most grains were headed out. Some rain damage was reported for curing **hay**. Rust was also reported in some wheat fields. **Rice** field planting preparations, including herbicide applications and flooding, continued. Rice seeding had begun in Merced and Yuba Counties. Grass hay and alfalfa were baled or green chopped. **Cotton** planting was nearly complete. Some early planted cotton may need replanting due to the recent heavy rains. **Corn** planting and **sweet potato** transplanting continued. Some **sugar beets** were side dressed. Harvest of mature sugar beets continued.

FRUIT CROPS

Grape and tree fruit growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation. Grape growers also applied fungicides to vines to protect developing bunches from mold and mildew. Small fruit clusters continued to develop on grape vines, and the grape leaf harvest was still underway. Tree fruit orchards were thinned for mid to late season varieties. There was an increase in applications of fungicides for brown rot in most **cherry** and stone fruit orchards. Harvesting of early season **peaches**, **apricots**, **apriums**, and **nectarines** began, and early variety cherry harvesting continued. Recent rainfall, especially from storms at the end of April, caused considerable damage to early cherry varieties since much of the crop was ripe. Cherry growers in Tulare County reported loss due to splitting between 15 to 100 percent. The extent of the damage to the cherry crop in Fresno County was still being assessed. **Blueberry** and **strawberry** harvesting continued, also with some loss reported due to the rain. **Persimmon** branches were elongating and flowering. Navel and Valencia **oranges**, **lemons**, and **grapefruit** continued to be harvested with good yields and quality reported. Citrus bloom continued. **Olive** trees were in full bloom, and **avocados** were at bud stage.

NUT CROPS

Growers continued their seasonal cycle of irrigation and cultivation in nut orchards. **Walnuts** were fully leafed out and were being treated for blight and codling moth.

VEGETABLE CROPS

Below normal temperatures slowed vegetable development and rain slowed field activities in all areas except the desert. Where conditions permitted, fields were prepared for planting summer vegetables and **melons**. Pre-planting herbicides were applied to some fields. Planting of seed and transplant **tomatoes**, **bell peppers**, and melons continued. Many Asian vegetables, including **gailon**, **bok choy**, **gai choy**, **ong choy** and **kankon** were also planted. Many tomato and **spinach** fields were treated with fungicides. Some tomato fields were also sprayed for mites. Worm treatments were applied to some melon fields. Downey mildew was reported in some **onion** fields. **Asparagus**, **broccoli**, **carrots**, **lettuce**, **oregano**, and **spinach** were harvested. Broccoli and head lettuce harvest was complete in Fresno County.

LIVESTOCK

The recent rains have benefitted the pastures and ranges, which were reported in mostly good to excellent condition. Cattle were in excellent condition; weight gains have been very high, with high market prices. Sheep were also in excellent condition. Some minor predator problems were reported in the Sutter Buttes. Mild weather was helping increase milk production.

CALIFORNIA CROP WEATHER -- WEEK ENDING 05/08/05

STATIONS	TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS AT 60°F BASE		PRECIPITATION			
	Average Week Ending 05/08/05	Departure from Normal	High	Low	This Season	Normal	This Season		Normal	
					January 1 - 05/08/05	January 1 - 05/08/05	Week Ending 05/08/05	July 1 - 05/08/05	July 1 - 05/08/05	July 1 - June 30
NORTH COAST	- - Degrees Fahrenheit - -				- - Number - -		- - Inches - -			
Eureka	54	2	62	45	0	0	2.50	43.42	36.33	37.53
Ukiah	58	-2	76	43	16	0	1.79	37.03	37.94	37.96
Santa Rosa	56	-3	71	44	18	0	2.57	34.02	29.90	30.30
CENTRAL COAST										
San Francisco AP	61	3	68	53	24	0	0.62	27.05	19.82	19.70
San Jose	61	-1	71	51	58	22	1.08	24.18	14.62	14.42
Livermore Tele	--	--	--	--	20	7	0.00	0.00	14.24	14.21
Salinas AP	60	2	70	47	26	0	0.43	19.25	12.46	12.44
Monterey FAA	59	3	69	47	12	0	0.40	15.29	14.43	18.72
King City	60	0	77	44	46	4	0.30	18.57	11.94	11.44
Paso Robles AP	61	0	82	43	14	6	0.68	22.50	13.08	13.95
SACRAMENTO VALLEY										
Redding	62	-1	79	52	87	49	2.15	35.66	32.46	33.30
Red Bluff FSS	62	-2	79	51	64	55	2.11	25.41	22.47	22.29
Chico AFS	64	1	83	51	108	33	0.67	26.08	25.22	26.32
Marysville	62	-4	82	48	87	89	1.00	21.27	21.48	21.04
Sacramento AP	62	-1	79	48	39	34	0.76	21.00	17.28	17.52
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY										
Stockton WSO	63	-1	81	49	63	58	0.50	18.50	13.42	13.95
Fresno	65	-2	82	50	108	112	1.13	16.11	10.81	10.60
Bakersfield	65	-3	81	51	128	150	0.67	9.89	6.24	5.72
SOUTH COAST										
Santa Maria AP	58	1	69	45	8	0	0.74	19.62	13.83	12.36
Santa Barbara	59	0	69	45	5	0	0.58	32.08	16.97	16.25
Oxnard	--	--	--	--	69	4	0.00	0.00	15.33	14.38
Los Angeles	65	-1	73	56	241	218	0.01	36.89	14.89	14.77
Riverside	--	--	78	53	134	95	0.40	21.13	10.40	9.58
San Diego AP	64	0	69	57	188	114	0.12	22.65	10.50	9.90
SOUTHEAST INTERIOR										
Bishop	56	-3	79	32	4	0	0.14	10.17	4.64	5.37
Lancaster	63	0	84	48	28	34	0.50	17.35	7.68	6.92
Daggett AP	68	-3	90	50	191	258	0.00	8.63	4.03	3.93
Thermal AP	76	0	95	60	600	593	0.00	7.96	3.53	3.16
Blythe	75	-3	96	52	564	636	0.00	6.70	4.03	3.60
Imperial	74	-2	96	53	618	629	0.00	5.13	2.97	2.75
CASCADE - SIERRA										
Alturas	50	2	67	33	0	0	1.21	13.23	10.53	12.01
Mt. Shasta	51	1	68	38	0	0	2.75	42.62	37.31	37.02
Blue Canyon	45	-4	59	35	0	0	2.09	51.55	63.19	67.04
Yosemite	--	--	70	44	0	0	0.00	23.92	36.35	37.05

Normal is defined as average over the 30-year period 1961 through 1990. Dashes (- -) in Average Week Ending and Departure from Normal columns mean less than five days reporting, while in High and Low columns mean no days reporting.

Weekly summary provided by the Western Regional Climate Center with data reported by the National Weather Service. When data are quality controlled by the National Climatic Data Center, the accumulated growing degree day and precipitation values are updated.